

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Solicitation of Water Quality Related Data to Support the Development of the 2002 Water Quality Limited Segments List under Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act and Subchapter 6 of the New Jersey Watershed Management Planning Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:15-6)**

**Take notice** that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is soliciting water quality related data to develop the 2002 Water Quality Limited Segments List (also known as the 303(d) List). The Water Quality Limited Segments List is used to establish priorities for implementation of water quality improvement measures including, as appropriate, development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). A TMDL establishes allowable pollutant loads or other quantifiable parameters that a stream can assimilate without exceeding applicable surface water quality standards. TMDLs establish the basis for water quality based controls such as permit limits or best management practices to control the amount of pollutants being discharged into the water body.

Data received through this solicitation may be used to:

- 1) confirm impairment of a waterbody and/or presence of a pollutant that is currently on the 1998 Water Quality Limited Segments List;
- 2) delist a waterbody and/or a pollutant that is currently on the 1998 Water Quality Limited Segments List; or,
- 3) list a waterbody and/or a pollutant that is not included on the 1998 Water Quality Limited Segments List.

The development of the Water Quality Limited Segments List is governed by Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 USC 1313 (d)), United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) Water Quality Planning and Management Regulation at 40 CFR 130, and Subchapter 6 of New Jersey's Water Quality Management Planning Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:15). Both USEPA and the Department are revising their respective regulations regarding the development of Water Quality Limited Segments lists. USEPA adopted revisions to their existing Water Quality Planning and Management Regulation in July, 2000. However, a date has not yet been established for implementation of these revisions. The Department proposed to repeal the existing Water Quality Management Planning rules and replace them with new rules entitled Water Quality and Watershed Management Planning rules (see N.J.R. 2285(a); July 3, 2000). Under this proposal, the development of the Water Quality Limited Segments List would be governed by proposed N.J.A.C. 7:15-3, Water Quality Limited Segments List. The 2002 Water Quality Limited Segments List will be developed under rules in place at the time the 2002 Water Quality Limited Segments List is proposed.

Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act requires States, Territories and authorized Tribes to promulgate a list of both waterbodies in which it is known that water quality does not currently meet applicable surface water quality standards, as well as threatened waterbodies. Threatened waterbodies are those waterbodies in which water quality currently meets applicable water quality standards but for which statistically significant trends indicate

that the waterbody is not expected to meet applicable surface water quality standards by the next 303 (d) cycle, currently two (2) years. New Jersey's Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQSs) can be found at N.J.A.C 7:9B. Waterbodies must be maintained on the Water Quality Limited Segments List unless new data show that SWQSs are being met, waters are not threatened, or the original basis for listing is no longer applicable, e.g., adopted change in applicable SWQSs.

Under USEPA rule (40CFR 130.7), States, Territories and authorized Tribes are required to develop the Water Quality Limited Segments List in 1998, 2002 and every two years thereafter. This notice solicits data for development of the 2002 Water Quality Limited Segments List.

**Interested persons** should mail data packages to the Department at NJDEP, Division of Science, Research and Technology, Water Assessment Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 401 East State Street, P.O. Box 409, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0409.

Data packages will be accepted for a period of six months from the date of this notice for the development of the 2002 Water Quality Limited Segments List. Data packages submitted after this time period may be considered for subsequent Water Quality Limited Segments Lists and/or other Department assessments such as Water Quality Inventory Reports.

Quality assurance considerations are particularly important because the adopted Water Quality Limited Segments List is used to establish priorities for water quality improvement measures, including, as appropriate, TMDL development. Given the importance and long-term ramifications of the Water Quality Limited Segments List, the Department must use data which meet the following quality assurance requirements:

- 1) Data packages must include a completed Quality Assurance/Quality Control Project Plan (QA/QC/Plan) prepared in accordance with "Guidance for the Development of Quality Assurance Project Plans for Environmental Monitoring" (EPA Region II, May 1, 1999);
- 2) All samples, including replicates, blanks and recovery spikes, shall be collected in conformance with the Department's Field Sampling Manual (1992);
- 3) Sampling locations must be accurately documented to within 200 feet;
- 4) Laboratory samples must be analyzed at a State certified lab; and
- 5) Analytical testing methods shall be in accordance with 40 CFR Part 136 Guidelines for Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis under the Clean Water Act.

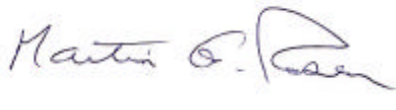
The Department will identify water quality limited segments using appropriate readily available data collected by governmental and non-governmental entities. In determining which data are appropriate and readily available, the Department will consider quality assurance/ quality control, monitoring design, age of data, accurate sampling location information, data documentation and use of electronic data management. A data package should include:

- 1) A completed QA/QC project plan. The Department recognizes that some water quality data collected to date may not have been collected under a QA/QC project

plan "approved" by the Department. The Department will consider data, for this data solicitation only, which do not have a previously approved QA/QC project plan if the data was collected in accordance with a QA/QC program acceptable to the Department;

- 2) Data provided in electronic format, preferably STORET. Data may also be provided in Excel, Access or compatible format on floppy disc, ZIP drive or CD ROM. Station location data should be provided in ArcView, Arc Info or compatible format when possible, or mapped on a USGS Quadrangle Sheet; and,
- 3) A citable report summarizing the data that includes name address, and telephone number of the entity that generated the data set.

Public notice of solicitation of data is being provided in the New Jersey Register and DEP Bulletin, and on the NJDEP Website ([www.dep.state.nj.us/dep](http://www.dep.state.nj.us/dep)). Electronic data cannot be accepted via e-mail or over the web at this time. Questions may be submitted electronically to [wat@dep.state.nj.us/dep](mailto:wat@dep.state.nj.us/dep).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Marty E. Rosen", followed by a vertical line.

Marty Rosen  
Director  
Division of Science, Research and Technology